

March 5, 2013

Memo to: York County School Districts – Superintendents and board chairs

From: Dave Meckley, Chief Recovery Officer for the School District of the City of York

Subject: **CONSOLIDATION**

In December 2012, I was appointed Chief Recovery Officer for the School District of the City of York. Over the next few months, a Recovery Plan for the district will be constructed to achieve the following goals: a) a sound effective education, b) a safe and healthy learning environment, and c) sustainable finances. An advisory committee is assisting in the recovery process to develop high impact options for consideration. Currently the advisory committee is looking at three options: a) 100% charter school district, b) Consolidation, and c) Transformation of the district with new educational and health/safety programs.

The recovery process has a short timeline and it is estimated that the School Board will have the recovery plan by the April board meeting. Currently a consulting firm (PFM) has been engaged to assist me and the advisory committee to evaluate each high impact option with regard to the projected impact on each of the goals. It is clear that the alternatives within the broad topic of consolidation and the timeline associated with community discussion and approvals from school boards will prevent consolidation to be the primary option in the recovery plan.

Since consolidation has been a topic discussed in a number of community based forums over the past decade, and because the recovery advisory committee identifies consolidation as a possible long term strategy for the future education in the York area, we are sending this letter to all York County School Districts to start a dialogue on the subject of consolidation and collaboration.

Attached is a questionnaire regarding a wide range of issues surrounding consolidation and collaboration. Please work with the stakeholders in your district and provide us with the requested feedback. If you have any questions, please contact me directly: email: [CROYork@outlook.com](mailto:CROYork@outlook.com), phone: 717-885-7978.

1. Would your district be interested in considering consolidation with one or more districts in the county? 1 – 5 (1-no, 3-perhaps, 5-yes)
2. Would your district be interested in considering consolidation with the School District of the City of York? 1 – 5 (1-no, 3-perhaps, 5-yes)
3. When would you see discussions starting? 1 – 5 (1-not for at least 2 years, 3-within a year, 5-within the month)
4. If you engaged in discussions and there appeared to be a viable option for consolidation, how long would you estimate a serious discussion phase would last before a specific proposal could come to your board for a vote? 1 – 5 (1-over three years, 3-one to two years, 5-six months or less)
5. What would be the advantages you would seek to be interested in pursuing consolidation (please list):
6. What would be the primary concerns you would anticipate with consolidation (please list):
7. What are the major obstacles you would anticipate with consolidation that would prevent your district from consolidating with one or more districts (please list):
8. In your view, what is the most likely group of districts for consolidation (please list the specific districts):
9. Would your district be interested in establishing an ongoing joint process for reviewing additional opportunities to share resources and reduce cost? Yes, No (If yes, who is the contact person and their contact information)